

Northern Territory

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement between native title holders and Giants Reef Exploration Pty Limited covering exploration areas near Tennant Creek has been signed. The agreement covers 8,000 square kilometres of pastoral lease land. Applications for 52 exploration licences and five mineral leases are covered by the agreement. (*Aus, 18 Sept, p39*)*

Following the Senate's disallowance of the Northern Territory's alternative native title regime a backlog of exploration tenement applications are being filed. The Northern Land Council's chief executive officer, Mr Norman Fry, stated that the organisation did not have sufficient resources to assist native title holders with their native title applications if the Territory Government rushed a backlog of 1,000 exploration licences through the native title system in a 12 month period. Traditional owners have 3 months from when an exploration licence is advertised to make an application for native title. (*SMH, 21 Sept, p5*)

National Native Title Tribunal President, Graeme Neate, stated that in anticipation of the increase in mining and exploration applications extra staff had been employed at the Darwin office of the Tribunal. (*NNTT Media Release, 6 Sept*)

The Miriung and Gajerrong People have expressed concerned about the impact on their country from plans to plant 35,000 hectares of sugar cane and create a 40,000 hectare buffer zone in the proposed Ord River Stage II project. The Northern Land Council and Kimberley Land Council have made submissions on the environmental impact of the proposal. (*LR News, 3 October, p20*)

APPLICATIONS

National

The National Native Title Tribunal posts summaries of registration test decisions on their website at: <http://www.nntt.gov.au>

The following decisions are listed for September and October 2000.

Maaiangal Clan	accepted
Wakka Wakka Jinda People	abbreviated
Wakka Wakka People	abbreviated
Ngurrara	accepted
Muthi Muthi People (Combined Application)	accepted
Ngadju (Combined Application)	accepted
Paakantji People	accepted

The decision indicates whether an application has met or not met each of the conditions of the registration test against which it was considered. 'Abbreviated' decision indicates that the application has been tested against a limited number of conditions.

The applicant may still pursue the application for determination of native title. If an application does not pass the registration test the applicant may seek a review of the decision in the Federal Court.

NOTIFICATIONS

Applications currently in Notification

Notification period is 3 months from the Notification start date.

Start date	Application no.	Application name	Location
6 Sept 2000	NC97/38	Whaddy Bryant Clan of the Gumbayngirr People #1 (Nambucca)	Nambucca
	NC98/14	Whaddy Bryant Clan of the Gumbayngirr People #2 (Nambucca)	Nambucca Heads
	NC98/20	Cubbitch Barta Clan of the Dharawal People #1	Wilton
20 Sept 2000	QC97/17	Olkol & Bakanh People	Pastoral Lease, Cape York Peninsula
	QC97/45	Northern Kaanju People & Yianh People	Eastern side of Cape York, Peninsula
	QC97/48	Kalpowar Holdings	Pastoral Holdings, north of Laura, FNQ
	QC97/63	Indjilandji/Dithannoi People	Mt Isa region
	QC98/43	Tagalaka People	Croydon region, Far North Queensland
	QC99/1	Darumbal People #2	Central Queensland
	QC99/36	Tableland Yidinji #1 & #2	Vicinity of Atherton Tableland area
20 Sept 2000	QC99/6	Kangoulu People #2	Area near Emerald in Central Queensland